



News release

Use of HFCs in the new Met Office headquarters

27 September 2004

The [Met Office headquarters at Exeter](#) is a new building which has been rated as 'excellent' for its environmental credentials by the Building Research Establishment using its Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). This confirms the building's many 'green' attributes, which was a fundamental design requirement placed by the Met Office on its construction partners.

The NEC supercomputers process vast quantities of data while producing guidance for weather forecasters and running the long-range climate change models; these generate a tremendous amount of heat. The need to keep the computer halls at the correct temperature is extremely important and for this purpose the HFC R-134a is used in the refrigeration plants.

At the time of construction, this was the most cost-efficient, safest and effective method of cooling such an area and if the coolant is disposed of correctly in the future when the building is dismantled, will not add to the global warming problem. During the planning and construction of the Met Office when the design specification was closed, there were no viable alternatives available.

The Met Office is justly proud of its headquarters and the attempts made to reduce the effects on the environment and refutes claims that the organisation is unnecessarily adding to global warming.

[More about the Met Office in Exeter](#)
[More about BREEAM](#)

For further information:

Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
 E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
 If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

[PRINTABLE VERSION](#)

About

[Met Office](#)

[Hadley Centre](#)

[International role](#)

[Library and archive](#)

[How to find us](#)

[Job vacancies](#)

[Contract opportunities](#)

[Terms and conditions](#)

[Accessibility](#)

News

[News release archive](#)

[Media Centre](#)

Learn

[About the weather](#)

[From the bookshelf](#)

Services

[Mobile forecasts](#)

[Weathercall](#)

[Marinecall](#)

[Monthly Outlook](#)

[MetWEB withdrawal](#)

[Talk to a forecaster](#)

Contact

[Contact us](#)

[FAQ](#)